

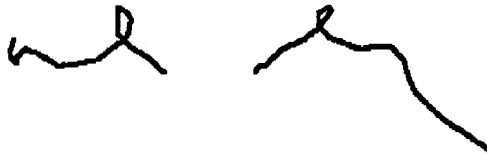
REMARKS

Claims 1 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC 112 as being indefinite. Applicant believes that appropriate correction has been made.

Claims 1 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hillestad in view of Peterson (3,397,485). Applicant respectfully submits that Hillestad teaches a stand with rings that are completely removable from the vertical supports, which can lead to loss of rings or vertical supports should they be separated. In the present invention, the rings are permanently coupled to the vertical supports and cannot be removed from the vertical supports. No new matter has been added.

Any extensions of time are hereby requested. *Please charge all fees due and owing to Deposit Account No. 500356 in the name of A + Legal Services - Greenberg & Lieberman.*

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael L. Greenberg', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Michael L. Greenberg, Esq.

Registration Number 47,312